

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, KN, KS, RH, US, AG

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: U.S. POLICY ON KOREA AND ON RHODESIA

1. SUMMARY. TWO RECENT COLUMNS OF FRONT-PAGE SERIES "QUESTIONS ON CURRENT EVENTS" OF LEADING GOVERNMENT-OWNED "EL-MOUDJAHID" HAVE BEEN DEVOTED TO US. POLICY ON KOREA AND ON RHODESIA. DRAWING ON VICE-PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS WHILE IN JAPAN, FEBRUARY 8 COLUMN FINDS THAT "U.S. WANTS TO PASS BALL TO JAPAN AFTER REVERSES SUFFERED IN INDOCHINA.... SAIGON HAS FALLEN, AND SEOUL HAS CHOICE PLACE IN DEFENSE OF COMMON INTERESTS OF IMPERIALISM IN THIS PART OF WORLD." COMMENTING ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TRIP TO AFRICA, FEBRUARY 13 COLUMN EXPRESSES VIEW THAT "WASHINGTON IS HOPING TO PREVENT CONFRONTATION THAT EVERYONE SEES AS INEVITABLE.... IN RHODESIAN DEBACLE THAT IS COMING, IMPERIALISTS DO NOT WANT TO LOSE EVERYTHING." END SUMMARY.

2. FEBRUARY 8 EDITION OF LEADING GOVERNMENT-OWNED "EL-MOUDJAHID" REPORTS THAT NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR VISITED UNION OF ALGERIAN JOURNALISTS TO DEVILIER MESSAGE FROM KOREAN JOURNALISTS AND THAT MEMBERS OF UNION'S EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT "TOOK THIS OCCASION TO RENEW TO UNCLASSIFIED

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KOREAN COLLEAGUES ASSURANCE OF THEIR FIRM SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS THEY ARE MAKING FOR TRIUMPH OF THEIR JUST CAUSE.Z UNDOUBTEDLY AS PART OF ALGERIAN JOURNALISTS' "FIRM SUPPORT", FRONT-PAGE COLUMN "QUESTIONS ON CURRENT EVENTS" ON SAME DAY PRESENTED HIGHLY BIASED COMMENTARY ON U.S. POLICY IN KOREA:

3. "DURING RECENT TRIP TO JAPAN, MONDALE ... REAFFIRMED CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA. THIS IS NO WAY MEANS U.S. POLICY IN ASIA HAS BEEN RECONSIDERED; IT IS TO BE EXPLAINED BY COLLAPSE OF SOUTH KOREAN LOBBY IN U.S., AND WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE FAVORABLY RECEIVED BY AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION. HOWEVER, MONDALE DID NOT FAIL TO EMPHASIZE THAT U.S. WOULD UNDERTAKE TO ARM SEOUL, THAT IS, TO 'KOREANIZE' SITUATION JUST AS IT HAD ARMED SAIGON TO 'VIETNAMESE' WAR THERE."

4. "WITH 'NON-AGGRESSION PACT', SEOUL IS TRYING TO GET INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF DIVISION. WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN TROOPS -- NOT YET ACCOMPLISHED -- IS NOTHING BUT PRESTIGE OPERATION MEANT TO 'REASSURE' INTERNATIONAL OPINION ON 'CHANGES' MADE BY DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION. AMERICAN AND JAPANESE INTERESTS IN SOUTH KOREA ARE SUCH THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE THESE POWERS ARE WILLING TO ABANDON THEM WITH WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS..."

5. "OBSTACLES TO PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION ARE TO BE FOUND IN ACTIONS OF SEOUL, WHICH AT INSTIGATION OF U.S. IS SYSTEMATICALLY VIOLATING ALL ACCORDS REACHED ON REUNIFICATION OF KOREA. NORTH KOREA, FOR ITS PART, HAS AT VARIOUS TIMES PROPOSED DISARMAMENT MEASURES ... TO END STATE OF MILITARY CONFRONTATION...."

6. "U.S. WANTS TO PASS BALL TO JAPAN AFTER REVERSES SUFFERED IN INDOCHINA.... JAPAN HAS ONLY TO TAKE ONE STEP TO REPLACE U.S. AS FORWARD POSITION OF 'FREE WORLD'.
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SAIGON HAS FALLEN, AND SEOUL HAS CHOICE PLACE IN DEFENSE OF COMMON INTERESTS OF IMPERIALISM IN THIS PART OF WORLD."

7. COMMENTING ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TRIP THROUGH AFRICA, FEBRUARY 13 EDITION OF "EL-MOUDJAHID" WRITES: "MARGIN OF MANEUVER OF TWO RACIST ADMINISTRATIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IS SHRINKING, AND THIS EXPLAINS NEW U.S. INITIATIVE.... WASHINGTON IS HOPING TO PREVENT CONFRONTATION THAT EVERYONE SEES AS INEVITABLE, SINCE ARMED STRUGGLE SEEMS TO NATIONALISTS TO BE ONLY WAY TO RECOVER THEIR RIGHTS IN RHODESIAN DEBACLE THAT IS COMING, IMPERIALISTS DO NOT WANT TO LOSE EVERYTHING. THEIR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN REGION ARE TOO IMPORTANT FOR THEM TO ACCEPT HAVING OUTCAST REGIME DELIBERATELY BLOCK THEIR STRATEGY."
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